

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01500 071204Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-04 PC-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-01

OC-05 CCO-00 SCS-03 /084 W  
----- 066662

R 070942Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3039

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

ADMIN CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: RELIEF COLUMNS STALLED ON RAODS TO ASMARA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1455

WASHINGTON POST REPORTED DAVID OTTAWAY, WHOM WE CONSIDER EXPERIENCED AND RELIABLE OBSERVER, RETURNED FEBRUARY 6 FROM AN ATTEMPTED OVERLAND TRIP TO ASMARA. OTTAWAY FIRST ATTEMPTED TO ENTER ASMARA VIA EAST (MEKELE) ROAD ON FEBRUARY 5 AND FOUND A GOVERNMENT RELIEF COLUMN WITH NUMEROUS TRUCKS WAS STALLED BY FIGHT NEAR DEKEMHARE, ERITREA. HE REPORTED THAT THERE WAS NO BLOWN BRIDGE NEAR ADI CAIEH BUT PREVIOUSLY THERE HAD BEEN SOME FIGHTING IN THAT AREA. MILITARY OFFICIALS OFFERED TO ESCORT HIM AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WHICH WAS EXACTLY TO THE ERITREAN BORDER, IN  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01500 071204Z

EFFECT HE SAID, A DEFACTO BORDER WAS BEING OBSERVED. HE THEN

CROSSED OBER FROM ADIGRAT TO AXUM AND ATTEMPTED ON FEBRUARY 6 TO ENTER ASMARA VIA THE WEST ROAD. HE HEARD SOME SCATTERED SHOOTING AROUND AXUM AND ENCOUNTERED HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR ADI UGRI. HE REPORTED THAT HE TALKED TO SEVERAL SOLDIERS NEAR ADI UGRI AND THEY TOLD HIM THAT PITCHED BATTLES HAD TAKEN PLACE WITH MANY GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES RESULTING AND THAT THE RELIEF CONVOY WAS UNABLE TO CONTINUE THROUGH TO ASMARA AS INSURGENTS WERE HOLDING THE ROAD. HE THEN RETURNED TO AXUM AND FROM AXUM FLEW BACK TO ADDIS ABABA THE SAME DAY.

COMMENT: APPEARS TO US, FROM FRAGMENTARY INFO CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, THAT INSURGENTS CONCENTRATING ON HARASSMENT ON ROADS IN TIGRE AND ERITREA OF ETHIOPIAN FORCES SEEKING TO REINFORCE AND/OR SUPPLY ASMARA AND OTHER URBAN NORTHERN GARRISONS.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, LIBERATION FRONTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS01500  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750045-0609  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 ADDIS ABABA 1455  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
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EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RELIEF COLUMNS STALLED ON RAODS TO ASMARA  
**TAGS:** PINS, ET, (OTTAWAY, DAVID)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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